

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



ORIGINAL

NELSON MANDELA

99-81  
00-258  
01-185

RECEIVED

DEC 31 2002

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

June 9, 2001

The Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington DC  
United States of America

Dear Colin

In ~~its~~ role as representative of the U.S. administration in the International Telecommunications Union, the Department of State considers matters that have a significant impact on development of communications infrastructure, both in the U.S. and globally. That infrastructure is vital not just for basic telephony, but as support for the broader global economic infrastructure. Ubiquitous and advanced telecommunications networks are thus indispensable in promoting health and economic well-being of developing nations. It is on behalf of communities in these nations that I would like to urge that U.S. policies continue to foster multiple and varied telecommunications services, including mobile satellite services, through your national and international spectrum policies.

The U.S. fought hard, and with the support of developing countries, to make spectrum available for satellite services, particularly mobile satellite services, for nearly a decade at the ITU. With the recent economic downturn, some parts of the satellite market, particularly the mobile satellite services sector, have faltered. Within that sector, ICO is wisely adapting its business plan to boost its prospects for success in a difficult market,

No. of Copies rec'd 6  
List ABCDE

PRIVATE BAG X70 000, HOUGHTON, 2041, SOUTH AFRICA

TEL: 27 (0)11 728 1000. FAX: 27 (0)11 728 1111

and its **tenacious** commitment to building an Innovative broadband mobile **satellite** system should be given the government's utmost support. **Despite** new strategies being adopted by ICO and other mobile **satellite** service providers, current economic circumstances have made *it* difficult to maintain existing **services**, and have led some to question **whether** any further support is warranted for **satellite** services.

Withdrawal of support for spectrum policies that promote **satellite services**, at this crucial juncture, **would be** a serious **error**. The need *for* basic telecommunications infrastructure remains acute **in less** developed areas **of** the world, and **the need** is dramatic.

**The U.S. must** continue its leadership in promoting innovation and diversity of telecommunications **infrastructure** around **the globe**. Satellites are and **will** remain a pivotal element of international communications networks. Satellite services hold great **promise** for expanding **the reach** of telecommunications beyond urban areas to **support** infrastructure that supports health, education, **and** social services to **rural** and remote communities. For developing nations, they may be **the only** answer to the challenge **of** connecting communities **that** are isolated by terrain or distance from urban telecommunications infrastructure.

U.S. leadership in securing global allocations for **satellite** spectrum *has been* a key factor in bringing basic communications to regions where none **existed** before. Continued U.S. commitment **will** help developing countries expand **this infrastructure** beyond **the** cities, and to do so in a cost effective way. I hope you **will carefully weigh** these considerations *in* any future spectrum decisions on satellite services.

Sincerely,



NELSON MANDELA